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Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 3 January 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the press release issued today by the Government of the Argentine Republic on the occasion of the latest anniversary of the illegitimate occupation of the Malvinas Islands by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 45 concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.

(*Signed*) Jorge **Argüello**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 3 January 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Press release

3 January 2011

"One hundred seventy-eight years ago, on 3 January 1833, British forces occupied the Malvinas Islands, forcibly expelling their inhabitants and the Argentine authorities that had been legitimately established there. The Argentine Republic immediately protested that act of force, to which it never consented. The occupation has continued since that time.

The Argentine Government once again reaffirms the Argentine Republic's imprescriptible rights of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, which are an integral part of its national territory.

Argentina and the United Kingdom have reached provisional bilateral understandings on practical matters relating to the South Atlantic, under the sovereignty formula, in successive joint declarations and exchanges of notes, with a view to cooperating to create conditions conducive to the resumption of negotiations on sovereignty.

However, the United Kingdom remains unwilling to address the question of sovereignty and continues to carry out repeated unilateral acts in the disputed area. These unlawful unilateral acts include activities for the exploitation and exploration of renewable and non-renewable natural resources, as well as military exercises, including the firing of missiles from the Malvinas Islands, in violation of safety of navigation standards adopted within the framework of the International Maritime Organization. These unilateral acts have been challenged by regional and biregional organizations, including the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), the Rio Group, the Latin American and Caribbean Unity Summit and the Ibero-American Summit.

These British acts pose an insurmountable obstacle to the pursuit and development of bilateral cooperation under the provisional understandings, as they run counter to the spirit and letter of such agreements and of United Nations General Assembly resolution 31/49, which calls upon the two parties to refrain from taking decisions that would introduce unilateral modifications in the situation while the islands are going through the process recommended in the relevant resolutions.

The Argentine Republic regards as incomprehensible the British refusal to address the fundamental issue and find a peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute, as mandated by the international community, and once again reiterates its continued and sincere willingness to resume the process of bilateral negotiations with the United Kingdom in order to find a definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute so as to end this anachronistic colonial situation, which is incompatible with developments in the modern world."